

**United Way
of Central Maryland**

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August 25, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to share information about Comcast which I believe is relevant as you consider the pending Comcast/Time Warner Cable/Charter transaction.

United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) is a nonprofit organization committed to changing the odds for families and individuals facing poverty. Our service territory encompasses Baltimore City as well as Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. We provide a host of services ourselves and support hundreds of other nonprofit organizations primarily focused on providing unmet basic needs such as education, income/employment, health and housing. To advance our work, we partner with 500 businesses.

Even as it has expanded into new business lines and service territories over the years, Comcast has remained an exemplary partner for UWCM and our community. You should know that this is not a recent development. I have been with UWCM for more than a decade (CEO for nearly half of that time), and I can testify that Comcast has been consistently and proactively supportive of us and our community at large. "Giving back" seems to be part of its culture.

Undoubtedly, you will rightfully receive positive feedback about Comcast's impressive Internet Essentials program which serves so many of UWCM's clients. I am impressed that the company is doing so much more than going through the motions to expand enrollment: (1) having anticipated barriers that poor families might face in bringing broadband services into their homes, Comcast has incorporated solutions from the outset and has added enhancements along the way; and (2) the company continues to reach out to schools, Head Start centers, faith groups, nonprofits and others to build awareness and enroll eligible participants.

Comcast helps nonprofits to get their message out. Over the years, our staff and volunteers have been invited to appear (live-to-tape) on countless Comcast Newsmakers' broadcasts allowing us to build public awareness about our 24-hour call center (2-1-1 Maryland at UWCM) and upcoming events. The list of other nonprofit organizations that have taken advantage of this free public service is extensive.

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I am also impressed that Comcast encourages associates to quite literally “roll up their sleeves” and get involved with many organizations and causes, such as Big Brother Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Clubs. Their own Comcast Cares Day mobilizes tens of thousands of employees and other volunteers nationwide in community and civic projects every spring. Comcast is forming a team of volunteers to serve as guides at Baltimore Project Homeless Connect, a one-day resource fair on October 2 serving 2,000 individuals and families facing homelessness. Brad Palazzo, Comcast’s Director of External Affairs for the region, serves on UWCM’s Community Partnership Board in Baltimore County where he helps us identify and fill gaps in the social safety net and bring best-practice initiatives to life.

Comcast encourages its employees to give back monetarily as well. Comcast’s annual campaign in support of United Way in central Maryland is among our top 15% of our 500 workplace campaigns, and Comcast employee participation (64% of its local workforce) is among the top 10%. Comcast also contributes a generous corporate gift. More than 100 local health and human service nonprofits benefit from their largesse.

Comcast is an important and trusted community partner.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at 410-895-1513 or mark.furst@uwcm.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Furst", written in a cursive style.

Mark S. Furst
President & CEO